

Guide to Winter Operations



Winter storms can be trying for all of us, motorists, residents and snowplow operators alike. The goal of the Public Works Department is to remove snow and ice from our roadways as rapidly and efficiently as possible while keeping roads open and essential traffic moving. This does not mean bare, dry pavement should be expected after each snowstorm. The aim of snow and ice control operations is to return road surfaces to normal winter conditions as soon as feasible within the limitations of this policy and our limited resources. With proper use of storm forecasts, personnel, equipment, and materials, the desired result can usually be attained. However, flexibility is needed to adapt to the variety of circumstances and conditions during a snow or ice storm.

This dedicated group of Town employees is devoted to working "around the clock" in order to return our roadways to normal conditions after each snow/ice event as quickly as possible. As always, your cooperation is necessary for the successful completion of this important task.

The intensity, timing and duration of each storm can be different, however, as a storm begins, the following procedures will be followed as closely as possible.

Procedures:

All storm conditions are dictated by temperature, the amount of moisture present in the storm, wind speed and duration. The combination of these factors is directly related to the conditions that dictate how a storm will be dealt with. Freezing rain, sleet, wet snow, dry snow, amount of snow, wind conditions, and the time of day all contribute to storm conditions.

The storm begins:

The DPW responds by treating roads with a sand/salt mixture. This application provides traction and prevents snow from bonding to the pavement. Not all roads can be treated "first". Hills and bus routes are a priority. Sanding the entire Town takes approximately 3 hours.

Plowing:

This operation begins when 2-3 inches accumulate. In combination with contracted equipment, town vehicles are assigned to a predetermined route and will remain in their pattern until the storm subsides. The main objective is to keep roads open and traffic flowing. At the end of the storm, plows will widen out all roads curb-to-curb and clear intersections.

Note: Residents may want to wait to clear their walks and driveways until the road has been widened. *Town By-law: Article V, Section 14: No person shall plow, shovel, or otherwise place snow, ice and debris onto that portion of any public way open to travel.*

Please do not be misled by plow trucks riding with their plows up. During an extended storm, vehicles must return to the garage for fuel or repairs, or to be reassigned to another section of Town.

Post Storm:

When all roads are clear and the storm subsides another round of sand/salt mix is applied to improve traction and melt the remaining snow and ice.

Spot Sanding:

There are times during light precipitation and freeze/thaw cycles where "spot sanding" is necessary. This is generally initiated by the Lunenburg Police Department. If the Police Department and/or the DPW feels spot sanding is needed in an area after hours, the DPW will be called in to address the immediate problem. Once that problem is addressed, the crew will then check other areas of Town to see if treatment is needed elsewhere.

Mailboxes:

Mailboxes installed in the Town right of way are placed at the owner's risk. Each mailbox installation should be sufficiently solid to withstand snow-clearing efforts by the Town. A large highway plow moves many tons of snow widening roadways. The rolling action of the snow will destroy or damage all but the strongest of mailboxes and posts.

Residents may want to place a second post in front of the box or a brace behind the box to break the force of the snow coming toward it.

Place reflectors so the box and post can be seen under poor visibility conditions.

It will be the responsibility of the adjacent property owner to clear snow around mailboxes to assure mail delivery by the U.S. Postal Department.

It is Town policy that mailboxes will not be replaced unless it is evident that the damage was caused by the plow blade and not the force of the snow.

What you can do to help....

- Obey winter parking bans and Town By-laws. No parking on roadways during snow events between the hours of 12:00 am to 6:00 am.
- Please be patient. Plow operators work in extreme conditions for extended periods of time with little rest.
- Sand is available to residents (for home use) at the Public Works Building, 520 Chase Road.

Remember:

Driving in winter snowstorms should be avoided whenever possible. In every winter storm, there are times when road conditions are hazardous despite everyone's best effort. Our work to restore safe road conditions is completed quicker and more efficiently when roads are free of traffic and illegally parked vehicles. If you must drive, make sure your vehicle is properly prepared. Be cautious, be courteous, and make sure to allow extra time.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support. If you have any questions regarding Town By-laws, parking restrictions or winter operations the following numbers may be helpful to you:

DPW	(978) 582-4160
POLICE	(978) 582-4150
BOARD OF SELECTMEN	(978) 582-4144

SNOW ROUTES

ROUTE 1 (No. of Subcontractors: 3)

LANCASTER AVENUE
GIBSON STREET
LEOMINSTER-SHIRLEY ROAD
PIONEER DRIVE
FORT POND ROAD (RT. 70)
OLD SHIRLEY ROAD
RESERVOIR ROAD
ROUND ROAD
RUTH STREET
PARMENTER ROAD
JOHNSON STREET
FLYNN ROAD
AUTUMN ROAD
GOODRICH STREET (RES. TO KILBURN)
EASTERBROOK ROAD
FIRE ROAD #2
FIRE ROAD #12
KILBURN STREET
WINTER HILL

SNOW ROUTES

ROUTE 2 (No. of Subcontractors: 2)

CHASE ROAD
BEAL STREET
WINDWARD TERRACE
SKYLARK LANE
WHITE STREET
MAPLE PARKWAY
BROADMEADOW DRIVE
PAGE HILL ROAD
PEARL BROOK ROAD
TILTON STREET
CHARLTON STREET
N.W. TOWNSEND ROAD
W. TOWNSEND ROAD
HOWARD STREET
NORTHFIELD ROAD (RT 13 TO N.W. TOWNSEND ROAD)
OLD FARM ROAD
BOUCHER ROAD
COUNTRY ROAD
131 WHITE STREET (LOW INCOME HOUSING – SAND ONLY)
MAYSFIELD ROAD
RICHARD'S WAY

SNOW ROUTES

ROUTE 3 (No. of Subcontractors: 2)

PROSPECT STREET
CROSS ROAD
FISH STREET
LINCOLN STREET
LAKEVIEW AVENUE
PINEGROVE AVENUE
LAUREL LANE
ELM STREET
SUNNYHILL ROAD
WEST STREET (RT 13 TO LEOMINSTER ROAD)
FAIRVIEW ROAD
STEVENS STREET
FRANCIS STREET
RANGLEY ROAD
REDWOOD ROAD
CLIFTON STREET
HOLLIS ROAD
CREST AVENUE
KIMBALL STREET
POND STREET
EASTERN AVENUE
UPLAND AVENUE
ANDREW TERRACE
FITCHVIEW TERRACE

SNOW ROUTES

ROUTE 4 (No. of Subcontractors: 1)

PAGE STREET
RESERVOIR ROAD (PAGE TO FLAT HILL)
FLAT HILL ROAD
STONEFENCE ROAD
MAY STREET
PEARL STREET
HOUGHTON MILL ROAD
SUNSET LANE
ROBB'S HILL ROAD
OAK RIDGE ROAD
LONGWOOD DRIVE
WATT STREET
THE LANE
ELMWOOD ROAD
PINE STREET
ARBOR STREET
CANTERBURY DRIVE
SHAKER COURT
GABES WAY

SNOW ROUTES

ROUTE 5 (No. of Subcontractors: 3)

LEOMINSTER ROAD
NORTHFIELD ROAD (RT 13 TO 2A)
GILCHREST STREET
VALLEY ROAD
BROOKVIEW TERRACE
CLIFFVIEW TERRACE
TURKEY HILL ROAD
OAK AVENUE
CUSHING LANE
HIGHLAND STREET
HOLMAN STREET
WINDERMERE DRIVE
CHESTNUT STREET
WEST TOWNSEND ROAD (CHASE TO NORTHFIELD)
MAIN STREET
MEMORIAL DRIVE
WHITING STREET
HILLSIDE DRIVE
SCHOOL STREET (LIBRARY)
CENTER
MIDDLE SCHOOL (SAND ONLY)
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (SAND ONLY)
BROWN AVENUE
SAVAGE ROAD
HIGH SCHOOL
ROLLING ACRES

SNOW ROUTES

ROUTE 6 (No. of Subcontractors: 3)

TOWNSEND HARBOR ROAD
HARBOR TERRACE
SOUTH ROW ROAD
ISLAND ROAD
HORIZON ISLAND ROAD
WILLIAMS DRIVE
WILDWOOD ROAD
BEACHVIEW ROAD
PENINSULA DRIVE
COVE ROAD
SANDY COVE ROAD
COVE TERRACE
CRESCENT ROAD
CRESCENT TERRACE
MULPUS ROAD
HUNTINGHILL ROAD
WOODLAND DRIVE
HEMLOCK DRIVE
HEMLOCK LANE
PINE ACRES ROAD
CROSS STREET
PARK STREET
OLD GROTON ROAD
CONELL DRIVE
PRIMARY SCHOOL (SAND ONLY)
HIGH SCHOOL (SAND ONLY)

SNOW ROUTES

ROUTE 7 (No. of Subcontractors: 3)

ELECTRIC AVENUE	PIERCE AVENUE
WHALOM ROAD	LAKE FRONT DRIVE
SUMMER STREET	LAKESIDE AVENUE
YOUNGS ROAD	WILDERWOOD AVENUE
EAST STREET	CROCKER AVENUE
BAKER STREET	
WEATHERBEE STREET	
KINGMAN STREET	
GRAHAM STREET	
PLEASANTVIEW AVENUE	
PIEDMONT AVENUE	
RAMGREN ROAD	
PRATT STREET	
RENNIE STREET	
WEST STREET TERRACE	
WEST ACRES DRIVE	
WEST STREET (WEST STREET TERRACE TO RT 13)	
PLEASANT STREET	
BROWN AVENUE	
LAWTON AVENUE	
JOSLIN STREET	
OTIS STREET	
HAMLIN STREET	
NATICK STREET	
JOHN STREET	
BURKE STREET	
ELIZABETH STREET	
WALLIS PARK	
FLORENCE STREET	
CLEARING STREET	
KIRBY STREET	
LESURE AVENUE	

WINTER STORM TIMELINE
DECEMBER 9, 2009

5:00 A.M. Police scanner advises of flakes beginning

5:30 A.M. Public Safety dispatch contacts highway supervisor

5:35 A.M. DPW personnel are called

Seven plow/sanding trucks have been preloaded on 12/8

6:15-6:30 A.M. DPW personnel have begun sanding. There is already 1 ½" of snow and traffic is building.

6:45-7:00 A.M. Subcontractors are called to assist. Snow has accumulated to 2" plus and traffic is heavy.

* Due to rate of snowfall DPW personnel are unable to apply sand/salt mix "under" the storm in many places and increasing commuter traffic has created "roll down"
[Roll down = a bond that is created between untreated pavement and snow/ice]
Heavy traffic and heavy snow exacerbate the situation.

9:00 A.M. A second round of sanding and scraping begins (It takes @3 hours to complete a sanding route)

Plows are unable to remove roll down where there has been heavy traffic

9:15 A.M. The sanding truck dedicated to Lancaster Ave slides off the road in the 400 block of Lancaster Ave jerking sharply into the oncoming lane, hitting a guard rail which keeps it from falling 5-6' into a swampy area. It takes @ 40 minutes to pull the 60,000lb vehicle back onto the road and into service.

It is snowing 2" per hour and traffic is at full volume. Circuitous rounds of plowing and sanding continue.

2:15 P.M. This same sander ruptures a hydraulic hose and is placed out of service.

3:00 P.M. I make the decision to pull 4 trucks from other routes and attack Lancaster Ave. scraping and sanding. Lesser traveled roadways are in better condition

5-5:30 P.M. The pavement is clear and black curb to curb.

6:30-7:00 P.M. Thunder/Lightning and very heavy rain washes most the material to the side of the roadway literally sending thousands of dollars down the drain.

12/10/09 Spot sanding of black ice.

WINTER OPERATIONS
EQUIPMENT AND STAFF

Department of Public Works:

Thirteen active snow removal vehicles

Subcontracted Equipment:

Seventeen pieces

Rates of Pay;

See Attached

During normal business hours the custodian assists with shoveling as well as one subcontracted individual to work around the public buildings.

Plowing and removing of snow around the ten sewer pump stations is also a necessary component of winter operations

Salt = \$64.12 pr ton

Sand = \$9.39 pr yd

SNOW SUBS EQUIPMENT AND RATES 09/10

EQUIPMENT	RATE
1 TON	\$ 69.50
1TON	\$ 69.50
6-WHEEL	\$ 87.80
6-WHEEL	\$ 87.80
LOADER	\$ 91.00
1 TON	\$ 69.50
1 TON	\$ 69.50
10-WHEEL W/SANDER	\$ 108.50
6-WHEEL W/WING	\$ 106.80
1 TON	\$ 69.50
6-WHEEL	\$ 87.80
6-WHEEL	\$ 87.80
1 TON	\$ 69.50
1 TON	\$ 69.50
6-WHEEL W/SANDER	\$ 92.80
1 TON	\$ 69.50
1 TON	\$ 69.50